

Appl. No. 10/658,246
Amdt. Dated 5/13/2005

REMARKS

Claims 13, 15-19, 21-22 and 29-45 are pending. Claims 1-12, 14, 20 and 23-28 are canceled. Claims 13, 15-19 and 21-22 have been amended. Claims 29-45 are new. No new matter has been added.

All of the claims of this Application have priority from grandparent Application No. 09/074,191 filed May 7, 1998, now Patent No. 6,185,681. The specification and drawings of the Application are nearly identical to the specification and drawings of the grandparent application.

The grandparent application is the subject of a Director-initiated reexamination (Control No. 90/006,529). The parent application (Application No. 09/259,991) is currently pending.

Disclaimers Relating to Claim Interpretation and Prosecution History Estoppel

Claims 13, 15-19 and 21-22 have been amended, and claims 1-12, 14, 20 and 23-28 have been canceled, notwithstanding the belief that these claims were allowable. Except as specifically admitted below, no claim elements have been narrowed. Rather, cosmetic amendments have been made to the claims and to broaden them in view of the cited art. Claims 13, 15-19 and 21-22 have been amended solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process, and the amendments were not necessary for patentability.

Any reference herein to "the invention" is intended to refer to the specific claim or claims being addressed herein. The claims of this Application are intended to stand on their own and are not to be read in light of the prosecution history of any related or unrelated patent or patent application. Furthermore, no arguments in any prosecution history relate to any claim in this Application, except for arguments specifically directed to the claim.

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The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney to answer any questions or to discuss steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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